

EYE—LEFT! EYE—RIGHT!

ONE OF THE RECENT spectacular arrivals at the Aquarium is a true chameleon from the Belgian Congo. Not only is this unique reptile able to cast either eye in any direction he chooses, but he can extend either of them almost like a telescope! He also has a prehensile tail, and a very unusual arrangement of toes.

Plans had been made for the chameleon to appear on the Academy's television show, "Science in Action," but the shipment arrived too late for the last show of this past season. It is hoped that he will survive until the program opens again in September. The chances of survival are very good, for the chameleon is housed in the Tropical Room and is receiving special care to which he appears to be responding well.

The standard diet of this reptile consists of large flies which are caught here in fly traps hidden in various places on Academy grounds. Thus far, the chameleon has consumed from two to eleven flies per day, which he captures easily with a five-inch tongue whose movement is so rapid that he can catch a fly in flight.

NEW EXHIBIT IN LOVELL WHITE HALL

THE EXHIBIT "Man and Nature in Marin" represents in pictorial terms the wide range of natural areas to be found in Marin County, as well as a bit of the historical background and modern development. The outstanding photographs by Ansel Adams, Pirkle Jones, and other able photographers, convey the variety of scenery and natural habitats from tide pools to redwood groves. The exhibit, which is sponsored by the Marin Art and Garden Center, the Marin Conservation League, and the Marin County Supervisors, will occupy the Lovell White Memorial Hall until the end of September.

NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of July 21, 1952:

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Charles V. Barfield
Dr. Carl E. Schlichtmann
Mr. John U. Weston
Mr. Jack Williams

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Kenneth Kerkering

ANNUAL SPONSORS

Mr. Starr Bruce
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Mr. R. Gwin Follis
Mr. Edward H. Heller
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Mr. Alfred F. Meyer
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Robert T. Orr

AFIELD IN BAJA CALIFORNIA

(See page 2)

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August Announcement

THE REGULAR AUGUST MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Morrison Auditorium in the Academy's Hall of Science, Golden Gate Park, on Wednesday evening, August 20, 1952, at 8 o'clock. Dr. Robert T. Orr, Curator of Birds and Mammals, will give an illustrated lecture on

BAJA CALIFORNIA

Discovered by Cortez in 1535 and settled by the early Spanish missionaries, Baja California has been a region of great interest to scientists for many generations. During the past seventy years the Academy has had many expeditions to this fascinating peninsula. The latest was in the summer of 1952, when Dr. Orr and several of his associates followed the trail of the Padres from the border to Bahia de los Angeles on the Sea of Cortez some five hundred miles to the south in search of bats. The audience will not only see color slides of these interesting mammals, including the fish-eating bat, but also the unique forms of plant life including elephant trees, cirios, palms, agaves, and numerous cacti, and the ruins of some of the lesser known missions.

The public is cordially invited.

LIBRARY RECEIVES RARE VOLUMES ON BIRDS

A SET of the nine volumes of *A History of the Birds of Europe*, by Henry Eeles Dresser, has recently been acquired through the James Moffitt Memorial Book Fund. This comprehensive work on the birds of Europe, including all the species inhabiting the western palearctic region, was first issued irregularly in 84 parts, 1871-1896. It is still considered one of the greatest works of its class, and is widely recognized for the unusual quality of the beautiful illustrations which were, in the words of the author, "executed chiefly by Mr. J. C. Keulemans, whose facile pencil has embellished so many works on ornithology." Several drawings, particularly of the Raptores, were made by Mr. Joseph Wolf; others, by Mr. E. Neale.

Ornithologists, artists, and men of letters alike will enjoy this interesting work which is now available for reference in the James Moffitt Memorial Library.

MR. SLEVIN DEPARTS FOR LONDON

MR. JOSEPH R. SLEVIN, curator of the department of Herpetology, has sailed for London, where he plans to complete his research in connection with the history of the Galápagos Islands. This visit is primarily for the purpose of obtaining

information about some of the early sailing vessels that visited the Galápagos. Most of his time will be spent at the British Admiralty Office in London where the old logs are kept. Other places of interest that Mr. Slevin will visit include the British Museum, the Maritime Museum, and the famous Kew Gardens.

If time permits, Mr. Slevin may also pay a visit to Berlanga, Spain, where the discoverer of the Galápagos, Bishop Tomas, is buried.

ENTOMOLOGISTS AFIELD

EQUIPPED with the almost innumerable nets, bottles, boxes, and other gear necessary for collecting insects, Mr. H. B. Leech and Mr. John W. Green of the department of Entomology left recently for a six weeks' expedition through the mountains of southern Arizona and adjacent New Mexico.

In contrast to most travelers, they will no doubt pitch camp at sites where insects are most likely to occur! General collecting will be done, but the main purpose of the trip is to obtain specimens of the groups in which these two staff members specialize, namely, beetles of the firefly group and related families for Mr. Green, and water beetles for Mr. Leech.

SUCH LANGUAGE!

RECENT CONCERN has been expressed over certain language emanating from behind the door that bears the legend "Ichthyology." Of late, instead of hearkening exclusively to such familiar words as "*Ptychocheilus*" and "*Xenophthalmichthyidae*," the visitor to that sanctum has overheard dark references to "position-precedence," "familiar homonyms," and "onomatophores."

It has been suspected that the prevalence of these disquieting allusions may be related to other recent events. It is recalled that at the annual meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, in Austin, Texas, the Academy's Curator of Ichthyology, Dr. W. I. Follett, was reappointed chairman of that society's Committee on Zoölogical Nomenclature.

There is corroboration in the fact that during the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pacific Division, in Corvallis, Oregon, that same Curator presided at a symposium entitled "Problems of Nomenclatorial Practice Now Under Consideration by the International Commission."

Further evidence is afforded by the recent appointment of Dr. Follett as chairman of the Nomenclature Committee of the Society of Systematic Zoölogy.

Meanwhile, the poor in spirit hasten past the door that bears the legend "Ichthyology."

NEW PATRON OF THE ACADEMY

AT ITS MEETING of July 21, 1952, the Council declared Mrs. Owen Bryant of Montara, California, a Patron of the Academy. A generous contribution received from Mrs. Bryant has been accepted by the Trustees and, at her request, has been made available to the department of Entomology.